

Attendees: Vicki Baroody, Fred Brockway, Tony DiConstanzo, Amanda Garris, Sage Gerling, Janelle Toner, Joe Marone, plus HWS students (Joe, Joe, Katherine and Mackenzie)

Summary: The meeting discussion focused on selecting physical improvements for Brook St. Park's community-led project. The group generated a wish list of items for a spring clean-up from new benches and stone dust trail to tennis court repairs. Items were selected that could mainly be done by volunteers, funded through resident donations, and needed minimal DPW assistance. HWS students came to the meeting to generate ideas for their course project, which they presented on Tuesday, Dec. 13th.

Review of Brook St. Park Site Visit

Below is a list of observations, project ideas and requests generated from the site visit on Saturday, Dec. 3rd.

- Painting crosswalk between tennis courts and east side entrance (DPW would do)
- Clean tennis court surface – possibly power wash or use bleach/water mixture
- Fall leaf clean-up by volunteers, HWS DOS or DPW
- Port-a-potty for tennis court users
- Benches for tennis observers
- Removing trees on west side of court (causing leaf and other debris)(need to find out if on City or homeowner property)
- Replacing tennis court backboard
- Remove water fountain fence and install shrubs if barrier needed
- Install shrubs on west side of Brook St. (any plantings should not create shade on tennis courts)
- Remove/cover rust from fence posts on tennis courts and ball field backstop
- Create seating on north side of tennis courts
- Fix up Recreation Dept. shed on tennis court side (new roof, new bulletin board, stain wood)
- Dog poop bag station
- Creek edge plantings on east side
- Path to playground (DPW could help)
- Weed/mulch playground area
- Grills and picnic tables
- Replacing 1 basketball court hoop
- Plantings for east side entrance including gravel area above creek

The group walked the area of a potential trail south of the creek between Brook St. and Ridgewood Parks. The group decided not to take on a creek trail project in 2012.

Spring Clean-up Wish List for Brook St. Park

The group plans to organize a spring clean-up for April. The group will coordinate activities with DPW, raise funds for some of the items (TBD), recruit neighborhood volunteers, and coordinate the clean-up day(s). Below is the wish list for the clean-up with possible DPW assistance per Sage's

conversation with Mark Perry after site visit. Items were selected that could mainly be done by volunteers, funded through resident donations, and needed minimal DPW assistance.

- Stone dust path from concrete sidewalk on east side to playground area (DPW could help)
- Paint tennis court and backstop fencing poles.
- Paint crosswalk between tennis courts and east side entrance (DPW could do)
- Clean tennis court surface
- Build/install new tennis court backboard using marine plywood (Question was asked if it could be a handball wall as well?)
- Clean-up debris on the north end of tennis courts and weeds around tennis court
- Mulch/weed playground area and try to remove graffiti on playground equipment
- New benches (sports team style without backs) along new stone dust trail for enjoying creek and watching ball practice/games)
- Plantings along east side entrance including in gravel area above creek

Also discussed:

- Graffiti walls/towers to keep basketballs from going into the creek (HWS students looking into this project)
- Borrowing HWS portable bleachers for baseball field.
- Joe Marone asking Sensenig's for boulder donations for sitting area along new trail
- BOCES building checkerboard/chess tables or picnic tables
- Kelley Monson's idea to have flower baskets on fence running along Brook St.

Comments/Actions Since Meeting

- After the meeting, Len DeFrancesco added to the list of needed tennis court repairs for consideration. He talked to Tony Reale of Reale Fencing for advice on a few issues. The recommendations are noted.
 - West side gate of the tennis court fencing does not close. There is a board there now to keep balls from leaving the court area. Reale Fencing recommends removing gate and installing fencing. Rick, who runs the summer rec program, said that they do not use the gate.
 - The fencing on the sw corner has an opening. Len put a board at this spot to keep balls from going through.
 - Balls are hit outside of the court area on the north side when the backboard is being using. Reale Fencing recommends extending the fencing by 3' above the backboard area.
 - For the rust on the fencing posts, a primer sealer paint (all-in-one) is recommended.
 - The cracks on court one and two needed to be filled in with concrete to avoid water going under the courts. Colored concrete to match is not necessary.
- Amanda suggested possible flowering vines along the long fence and water fountain fence (if stays)
- Tony DiConstanzo, Amanda Garris, Gavin Sacks, and Janelle Toner attended the HWS students' presentation on Dec. 13th. The students presented their idea for

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graffiti walls to prevent basketballs from entering the creek. The idea was well-received and ideas for connecting with schools to generate art and considering other parks as a location were shared with the students. The HWS students will be involved in moving their idea forward in the spring.

Next meeting date: January TBD 2012